

Melody Maker

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£1 tickets for MM show

WISHBONE ASH AND ELP AT OVAL



BOLAN: cool love in New York—page 9

BRYAN FERRY'S tonsil operation this week has caused the postponement of Roxy Music's British and American tours — but it will give the band time to rehearse more fully before they return to public appearances.

With their single "Virginia Plain" in the MM chart at number 5, the

group's electronics man Eno, told the MM: "It's sad, but unavoidable — Bryan's been having attacks of tonsillitis every fortnight. So we're going to try to hire a place where we can leave our equipment and play for three or four weeks. It will do us a lot of good."

£10,000 worth of British gigs have been cancelled and the group will not return to action until November. Their first American tour will take place during December.

THREE more top acts have been added to the bill of the Melody Maker Poll Awards concert at London's Oval on September 30. And tickets for the show, which stars Emerson, Lake and Palmer, will cost only £1.

Tickets are at this rock-bottom level because ELP have agreed to play the concert at a low fee — as a special thank-you to the fans who have voted for them.

The three individual members of ELP have won various individual awards in the poll.

Other acts added to the concert are Wishbone Ash, Focus — both of whom capture top placings in categories — and Genesis.

Tickets are available at £1 from Harlequin Record shops and from the Oval. On the day they will cost £1.25.

Dutch group Focus, who have made relatively few trips to Britain, are flying over specially from Amsterdam for the day.

They were one of the big hits at the Reading Festival this year with their classically influenced rock led by organist Tys Van Leer.

Wishbone Ash's following has increased steadily for the past two years and their albums are now sure hits in the LP charts.

Genesis are rapidly following in the footsteps of stablemates Lindisfarne on the road to the top.

Full results of the MM Poll will be announced in next week's Melody Maker along with further details about the MM concert which promises to be the biggest — and the last — open air rock concert in London this summer.

■ Genesis interview: page 13

■ Poll show details: page 45

Disc boss slams LP prices

AN ATTACK on the latest album price increases made by major record companies was made this week by a leading independent disc boss.

Tony Stratton-Smith, head of the Charisma label and manager of acts including Lindisfarne and Genesis told MM: "I deplore these price increases — the main reason for them is that there is far too much product around. Why should the winning albums pay for the losers by providing a subsidy to this extent? The number of album releases is crazy."

"Independents like Charisma have to go along with the majors' increases, because the dealer gets a bigger margin from the higher price."

"But the majors are putting up the prices to cover up their hit-and-miss policy of issuing records that shouldn't be issued. What they should do is get better A&R men who make records that will sell."

Glyn Evans, International A&R Manager at CBS, told the MM: "If we only put out records that we knew were going to be winners we would only put out albums by Andy Williams or Simon and Garfunkel or artists like that who are sure to be successful. We would never release unknown artists and new artistic talent would dry up."

"Prices of records do not bear any relation to the fact that we issue records by unknown artists who are not winners at the moment."

EMI Records refused to comment.



WISHBONE'S
Andy Powell